

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. For a patient having a limb including an upper limb, a lower limb and a joint therebetween, an orthopedic splint for therapeutically stretching the soft tissue of said limb, said orthopedic splint comprising:
  - 5 a. a flexible support member having a distal end and a proximal end thereof;
  - b. a first contact pad rotatably attached to the proximal end of said flexible support member and being disposed for distributing load to the underside of said upper limb;
  - 10 c. a second support pad attached to the distal end of said flexible support member and being disposed for distributing load to the underside of said lower limb; and,
  - 15 d. a third support pad attached as a fulcrum disposed near the center of said flexible support member and being disposed for distributing load to the topside of said limb and in close proximity to said joint, thereby providing therapeutic traction to said limb while placing
  - 20 said limb in a self-aligning suspension sling arrangement.
2. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 wherein said flexible support member comprises a pair of composite
- 25 material rods.
3. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 wherein said flexible support member is formed of metal.
- 30 4. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 wherein said flexible support member is formed of spring steel.

5. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said distal end of said flexible support member and said second support pad.

6. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said proximal end of said flexible support member and said first support pad.

7. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said third support pad and the fulcrum point of said flexible support member.

8. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 1 further including a hinge in said flexible support member disposed in close proximity to said joint and said hinge including a lock for setting said flexible support member in a straight position.

9. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 8 wherein said hinge lock includes an angular adjustment for setting said hinged flexible support member at a preferred angle.

10. For a patient having a leg including an upper leg, a lower leg, and a knee therebetween orthopedic splint for therapeutically stretching the soft tissue of said leg, said orthopedic splint comprising:

a. a pair of flexible support members, each having a distal end and a proximal end thereof;

- b. a yoke rotatably attached at the proximal end of said flexible support members and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis of said flexible support members;
- c. a first contact pad rotatably attached to said yoke  
5 and being disposed for distributing load to the underside of said upper leg, said first contact pad being rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said flexible support members;
- d. a second support pad attached to the distal end of  
10 said flexible support members and being disposed for distributing load to the underside of said lower leg; and,
- e. a third support pad attached as a fulcrum disposed near the center of said flexible support members and  
15 being disposed for distributing load to the topside of said leg and in close proximity to said knee, thereby providing therapeutic traction to said leg while placing said leg in a self-aligning suspension sling arrangement.
- 20 11. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 10 wherein said flexible support members comprise a pair of composite material rods.
12. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 10 wherein said  
25 flexible support members comprise spring steel.
13. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 10 wherein said flexible support members are formed of metal.
- 30 14. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 13 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said distal end of said flexible support member and said second support pad.

15. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 13 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said proximal end of said flexible support member and said first support pad.

16. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 13 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said flexible support member and said third support pad.

17. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 10 further including a hinge in said flexible support member disposed in close proximity to said joint and said hinge including a lock for setting said flexible support member in a straight position.

18. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 17 wherein said hinge lock includes an angular adjustment for setting said hinged flexible support member at a preferred angle.

19. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 10 further including an ankle foot orthotic coupled to said distal end of said flexible support member.

20. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 19 further including an adjustable toe strap coupled between the toe of said ankle foot orthotic and the distal end of said flexible support member.

21. For a patient having a limb including an upper limb, a lower limb and a joint therebetween, an orthopedic

splint for therapeutically stretching the soft tissue of said limb, said orthopedic splint comprising:

- a. a flexible support member, each having a distal end and a proximal end thereof;
  - 5 b. a first contact pad rotatably attached to the proximal end of said flexible support member and being disposed for distributing load to a first side of said upper limb;
  - c. a second support pad attached to the distal end of  
10 said flexible support member and being disposed for distributing load to the said first side of said lower limb; and,
  - d. a third support pad attached as a fulcrum disposed near the center of said flexible support member and being  
15 disposed for distributing load to the opposing side of said limb and in close proximity to said joint, thereby forming a lever and fulcrum arrangement for providing therapeutic traction to said limb.
- 20 22. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 wherein said flexible support member comprises a pair of composite material rods.
23. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 wherein said  
25 flexible support member comprises spring steel.
24. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 wherein said flexible support member is formed of metal.
- 30 25. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said distal end of said flexible support member and said second support pad.

26. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said proximal end of said flexible support member and said first support pad.  
5

27. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 further comprising a dynamic tension adjustment mechanism attached between said flexible support member and said third support pad.  
10

28. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 21 further including a hinge in said flexible support member disposed in close proximity to said joint and said hinge including a lock for setting said flexible support member in a straight position.  
15

29. The orthopedic splint as in Claim 28 wherein said hinge lock includes an angular adjustment for setting said hinged flexible support member at a preferred angle.  
20